

Media, PA — When NASA calls, Congressman Joe Sestak answers. In this case, he helped NASA secure space at Granite Run Mall to set up their "Vision for Space Exploration Experience" – one of only three stops the program is making in Pennsylvania.

The "Vision for Space Exploration Experience," which Joe visited today, is a traveling exhibit that allows visitors to embark on a simulated journey through the solar system. It uses 3-D imagery and holographs to show visitors what it might be like on the surfaces of the moon or Mars. Visitors can also simulate a visit to one of Saturn's moons.

The exhibit will be at Granite Run Mall in Media through May 20th. The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 19th and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 20.

NASA staffers will be on hand at each of the tour's stops to answer questions and discuss some of the technologies used on Earth as a result of years of space-based research and development.

NASA brings over \$900,000 to the Seventh District annually, with \$540,000 going to businesses in the district, \$240,000 to education, and \$20,000 going to non-profit organizations.

Congressman Sestak has a strong commitment to creating jobs and helping small business. As Vice Chairman of the Small Business Committee, Rep. Sestak has worked to support new and small businesses through open access to loans, credit and capital, advocates fair and true tax relief for small business, and work to reduce onerous regulations and paperwork. Recently, he held a summit on Economic Development, which brought together local chambers of commerce, business owners, economic development professionals, elected officials, union leaders, and members of the higher education and advanced training communities to discuss and work on strategies to enhance the local and regional economy. He will be holding a second Economic Summit on Monday, May 21st at Delaware Community College.

Congressman Sestak has also focused on education during his first term. Earlier this spring, Congressman Sestak held an Education Summit, with Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller, which brought together over 300 educators, parents, students, administrators, and policy makers to discuss education issues surrounding Early Childhood, special education, and Elementary and Secondary Education.

During the summit's panel discussion on early childhood education, Congressman Sestak's panelists and guests discussed the need to address issues pertaining to Head Start, including continued support of parental involvement in local Head Start policy councils and extending eligibility of Head Start for families up to 130 percent of the poverty level. A resounding concern by both early childhood experts and educators was regarding the need to provide and retain high quality Head Start teachers, who serve our country's most disadvantaged, low-income children.

As a result of this discussion, Congressman Sestak worked with Chairman Miller to incorporate parental involvement in local Head Start policy councils and to extend the eligibility of Head Start families into H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act. Rep. Sestak also successfully passed an amendment he introduced to the bill which will provide up to \$10,000 in loan forgiveness for Head Start teachers.

The second education summit explored the challenges facing our Higher Education system and Advanced Training programs and included Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, the Chairman of the US House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness as a guest panelist.

Congressman Sestak has also signed on as a major sponsor of H.R. 627, the Keep our PACT Act, which would fully-fund No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by 2014. The congressman's third education summit was a Congressional Field Hearing held with Chairman Dale Kildee (D-MI) and focused on No Child Left Behind.

Congressman Sestak voted for two education bills (H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, and H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seed's through Science and Engineering Research Act), which are aimed at inspiring the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and space pioneers.

Following his visit to the "Vision for Space Exploration Experience," Congressman Sestak spoke at the Marple Newtown School District Concert in the Park at Marple Newton High School.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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